(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to resume production;

(f) whether any Committee was constituted for conducting enquiry into the accident;

(g) if so, the composition of the Committee and the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken on the basis of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seepage of rain water contaminated with spillages of flammable benzol products had accumulated inside the cable trenches of Motor Control Center (MCC). The flammable benzol vapours got ignited due to electrical spark inside the MCC room. Loss suffered due to this fire at the Benzol Plant is Rs. 1.6 crores approximately.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The production work has been resumed in the benzol plant and all products are being manufactured normally.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

(f) to (h). Yes, Sir. A Committee, comprising (1) General Manager (Services), BSL-Chairman; and (2) Dy. General Manager (E.C.D.), BSL-Member, was constituted for conducting an enquiry into the accident. This Committee identified the causes of the fire and suggested protective action. Two persons were identified for negligence of duty in this connection. Disciplinary action has been taken against them. Further, on the basis of the report following actions have been taken :

1. Shifting of Electrical Sub-Station.
2. Eliminating of cable trenches and replacing them with overhead cables.
3. Installation of Steam Quenching System.

[English]

Ongoing Railway Projects in Orissa

380. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going railway projects in Orissa alongwith their estimated date of completion;

(b) the present position of these projects, project-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and released to these projects during the current financial years, project-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to electrify Raipur-Waltair Railway line;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Details are as under :

Name of the project	Funds Allocated in 1996-97 (Rs. in Crores)	Date of Completion	Present Position
1	2	3	4
New Lines			
1. Talcher-Sambalpur	58.00	Dec.'97	Talcher-Angul (18 kms.) and Sambalpur-Maneshwar (16 kms.) section have been completed. For remaining, the work is under progress.
2. Daitari-Banspani	20.00	Dec.'98 if private funding can be arranged.	Work in progress.
3. Lanjigarh-Junagarh	1.00	Tenth Plan	Land acquisition in progress. Work has been taken up in small stretch where land has been acquired.
4. Khurda Road-Bolangir	1.00	Tenth Plan	Final Location Survey has been taken up and preparation of land plans is in progress.
5. Haridaspur-Paradeep	1.00	Tenth Plan	Final Location Survey has been taken up.

1	2	3	4
Gauge Conversion			
1. Rupsa-Bangripusi	00.50	End of IX Plan	The work would be taken up after obtaining the clearance from CCEA.
Doublings			
1. Gajpatinagaran-Vijayanagras	5.90	Dec.'97	Work in progress.
2. Rajatgarh-Nergundi	5.16	Dec.'97	Work in progress.
3. Raghunathpur-Rahama patch doubling	8.00	Dec.'99	Land acquisition in progress. Tenders for work invited.
Electrification			
1. Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar	10.00 and Rs. 30 crs. under BOLT	March, 2000	Electrification work of Kharagpur-Bhubaneshwar section has been approved with private funding. The work has not been physically taken in hand so far because of very high prices quoted by the bidders in the Tender under BOLT scheme. Planning Commission was approached to allow execution of the work under conventional system with Budgetary support. Planning Commission have now desired that approval of Expanded Board be obtained, for executing the work under Railway funding. Accordingly, the proposal is being submitted before the Expanded Board.

(d) to (f). There is no proposal to electrify Raipur-Waltair section, at present.

[Translation]

Branch Post Office in U.P.

381. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such villages in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Khurja, which fulfil the stipulated conditions for opening Branch Post Offices and the Post Offices have still not been opened there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the branches of post offices are likely to be opened there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 2894 villages in Uttar Pradesh fulfil the part of norms opening of post office relating to population and distance only. The financial norm for opening post offices is examined depending upon the availability of targets and resources. Extra departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in the current financial year in 32 villages fulfilling all the norms relating to distance, population and income. No village in Khurja fulfils the stipulated conditions of opening of Post Office.

(b) and (c). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subjects to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Policy on Satellite

382. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any policy on satellite communication has been formulated;

(b) if so, the salient features and details of such a policy; and

(c) if not, the time by which such policy is likely to be formulated?